

13788 M73 Road
Montrose, CO 81401
11/7/03

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC

Re: Comments on RM-10811

Dear Sir or Madam,

I support the two main themes of the petition concerning CW submitted by FISTS in RM-10811.

Since CW is only one mode of operation available to a person seeking an entry level license into amateur radio, and since a proficiency demonstration is not required for any other mode, then the requirement for CW proficiency in the Technician Plus license should be dropped and the Technician class holder should be afforded the privileges currently granted to the Technician Plus license. However, I do not feel, however, that the HF privileges of the Technician Plus license should be expanded beyond what is currently available without the demonstration of CW proficiency and more technical expertise. To do so simply opens the door for unqualified people to enter the amateur bands and makes those bands more like citizens band radio is today.

In line with the above, I strongly favor retaining at least a minimal CW proficiency requirement associated with the General Class License. Since the General Class License extends operating privileges substantially into the CW bands, and those bands support considerable activity, any person given access to those bands should have at least minimal proficiency in that mode. I have never seen a study done on band activity, but I would suggest that the HF CW bands probably carry as much or more activity per KHz than do the phone bands, and some proficiency is needed to be able to operate there.

I also support the FISTS proposal to increase the technical and CW proficiency requirements of the Extra Class License. The Extra class license is the pinnacle of formal amateur radio requirements, and there is no doubt that those requirements have been relaxed considerably over the past years as a part of the "dumbing down" of amateur radio. Stiffening the requirements for the Extra Class License would make receiving that license a goal that would stimulate the development of technical and operating proficiency in those willing to do so without foreclosing access to most of the HF bands to those not willing to make the effort.

Thank you for allowing me to make these comments.

